to recognize his specimens of the genus from his specimens of all other genera; or, in other words, it contains a distinct exposition of the essential characters. What more could be expected of him? Is the name that he proposed to be discarded (1) because his definition of it does not enable Mr. Walker to select the species from a collection of all the Amphipoda known at the present time to occur on the British coasts? or (2) because it has since been found that the male, which was unknown to Leach, has hands of a different shape from the female?

These it seems to me are the only two props that Mr. Walker has to support him; and I fear he will find it exceedingly difficult to maintain his balance on a two-legged stool of this description. But I trust he will abandon the attempt. It seems to me that he must admit that, in accordance with a legitimate and practical interpretation of an ambiguous rule, the genus may still stand as Leach's, for it can only be overthrown by an impractical rendering of it.

But to take the name from Leach and give it to Bate, as Mr. Walker proposes, is to add insult to injury by punishing the innocent to reward the guilty. Fortunately, on any plea, the transference is inadmissible, for Oken and Rafinesque have put in a prior claim for it.

But Leach's claims are incontestable; and those who swear by the law of priority, which ultimately must prevail, will say *fiat justitia, ruat cœlum*—give Leach the credit of the name, no matter to what temporary condition of chaos the synonymy of the group be thereby brought.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Description of a new Species of Tristomum *from* Histiophorus brevirostris. By F. Jeffrey Bell.

Among the specimens in the collection of the late Mr. F. Day are some labelled as "Parasites from *Histrophorus* (sic) *brevirostris*, Madras." These are all examples of a species of *Tristomum* which is clearly allied to but is quite distinct from *T. coccineum*. The characters of the latter species have been so clearly stated by Dr. Taschenberg * that it is an easy matter to distinguish the new species, which may be called *Tristomum histiophori*. With a close resemblance to *T. coccineum*, it is distinguished by the absence of

* Abh. der naturf. Ges. zu Halle, xiv. Heft 3.

parallel rows of chitinous corpuscles and by the fact that the posterior sucker projects by about one third of its diameter beyond the margin of the body.

Breadth 12; length (including suckers) 15 millim.
„ 11·5 „ „ „ 14 „
„ 10 „ „ „ 10·5 „

As *T. coccineum* has been taken from the gills of *Xiphias gladius*, it is interesting to observe that an allied form is taken from an allied fish.

Note on the Authors of the Specific Names in John White's 'Journal of a Voyage to New South Wales,' 1790.

The descriptions and names of animals discovered by John White have usually been attributed by later writers to the discoverer. If, however, we closely examine the book this is found not to be the case.

In the Advertisement (sig. a 2) the editor returns his grateful thanks to Dr. Smith, Dr. Shaw, and John Hunter, whose abilities and communications have enabled him to surmount those difficulties that necessarily attended the description of so great a variety of animals.

With regard to the plants, the fact that they were described by J. E. Smith seems doubtful if we read the sentence on p. 221; but Mr. Carruthers kindly informs me that the evidence of Robert Brown on this point is indisputable (Prod. Flor. N. Holland, 1810, p. 382). Mr. Carruthers also suggests that the authors probably sent their MS. descriptions to the editor (? unknown), who worked them into his editorial text without individual acknowledgment.

With regard to the animals, George Shaw, in his 'General Zoology,' expressly stated that he himself described the following species for the first time in White's 'Journal':—*Motacilla australis*, *Lacerta scincoides*, *L. muricata**, *L. tæniolata*, *L. platura*, *Falco albus*, *Corvus graculinus*, *Cottus australis*; and as these occur here and there among other species, we may reasonably assume the following to be by the same author:—*Fulica alba*, *Caprimulgus cristatus*, *Rana cærulea*, *Procellaria fuliginosa*, *Lacerta varia*, *Chætodon armatus*, *Motacilla superba*, *M. pusilla*, *Psittacus pusillus*, *P. discolor*, *Labrus cyprinaceus*, *Lophius dubius*, *Sparus compressus*, *Mullus fasciatus*, *Balistes granulatus*, *Atherina australis*; for on p. 269 we are told that John Hunter described the animals [Mammals] which follow, and to these no specific names have been given.

C. Davies Sherborn
(Index gen. et spec. anim.).

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* 'General Zoology,' Amphibia, vol. iii. pt. 1, 1802, p. 211; only one reference is given here, as sufficient to prove the case.